



STATE OF WASHINGTON
HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

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August 6, 2012

TO: Health Care Authority Staff
FROM: Doug Porter, *DP* Director
SUBJECT: Transition

Today, it is with a poignant mixture of happiness and regret that I am submitting to the Governor my letter of resignation as Director of the Health Care Authority. My last day in the office will be Friday, August 17, after which I will be taking advantage of several weeks of accumulated annual leave.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my ten-year assignment as head of the Washington State Medicaid program and, for the past two years, Director of the Health Care Authority. It is truly one of the very best jobs in state government. As I look back over all the positions I've held in both public and private sectors, I can honestly say that I have never worked with a more talented or committed crew of professionals. It is this I will miss most – the sense of teamwork and drive for excellence that you bring to our programs and customers again and again.

I am in the final stages of securing a position with a health care consulting firm with a sterling national reputation, the outcome of which I will share in the very near future. My immediate plans are for Susan and myself to take what's left of our summer to spend time with our first grandchild, Ella, and to travel to parts of the state that, somehow, we have been too busy to see over the past decade.

While it is hard to leave, I am comforted by the knowledge that a program as complex and vital as ours is being entrusted to a group of executives, managers, and line workers who are absolutely capable of carrying out its goals. You have risen to daunting challenges in the past, and I know you are already turning your considerable energies to a brighter future offered by national health care reform.

I want all of you to take a moment and share credit in the successes of the past decade (now would be a good time to share with stakeholders our recently published agency report). Many of these achievements were possible in large part because we have enjoyed a Governor and a Legislature who were as committed as we were to improving health care and the services we provide to employees, their dependents, retirees, and for our state's most vulnerable populations. The full list would rapidly overtake this announcement, but some major items include the commitment we made to evidence-based medicine; our drive to strategically redesign the state's health care purchasing; our full-court press for enrollment in Apple Health for Kids; taking on the Governor's challenge to restrain annual medical cost inflation to four-percent or less, by eliminating waste and inefficiencies; and the preparations we've made – and are still making – for health care reform. Our claims payment system – ProviderOne, set a new national standard for Medicaid Management Information Systems, and our Program Integrity innovations have inspired flattering imitations in other states.

It has been my extreme pleasure and deep honor to enjoy this ride with you. I wish all of you continued success in the years ahead, and I hope that our paths may cross again soon.

Thank you for your dedication to our mission and your solid support over the years.